

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB, CH, US

SUBJECT: 64TH ECOSOC -- HUMAN RIGHTS: REPLY TO PRC
STATEMENT ON CAMBODIA

REF: USUN 1658

1. WHILE WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID GETTING INTO A STERILE
DEBATE WITH CHINESE ON SUBJECT OF CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEPARTMENT BELIEVES USUN SHOULD EXERCISE SHORT RIGHT OF
REPLY TO CHINESE DELEGATE STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL.
ACCORDINGLY, US DEL AUTHORIZED TO MAKE FOLLOWING RIGHT
OF REPLY AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY:
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1. THE US DELEGATION NOTES THE CHINESE DELEGATE'S
STATEMENT OF APRIL 25 ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN CAMBODIA AND US INVOLVEMENT IN CAMBODIA PRIOR TO 1975.
I DO NOT WANT TO DEBATE THE HISTORY OF THE INDOCHINESE
WAR.

2. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED THAT WAR, BOTH IN THE US AND ABROAD, DID SO WHILE BASING THEIR OPPOSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS. ARE THOSE CONSIDERATIONS NO LONGER VALID?
3. NO COUNTRY WISHES LIGHTLY TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION

WHICH PREVAILS IN ANOTHER. BUT THE SITUATION DEMANDS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FROM ALL OF US. THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA HAVE ACCUSED THEIR GOVERNMENTS OF INFLECTING DEATH ON HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CAMBODIAN PEOPLE THROUGH POLICIES IMPLEMENTED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TERMED CAMBODIA THE WORST VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP, I WILL CIRCULATE THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

4. ALL MEMBERS OF THE UN ACCEPT UNDER CHAPTER 1 OF THE CHARTER AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE ORGANIZATION THE PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF "RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION." CONFRONTING ALL OF US, IN THIS BODY AND IN OUR OTHER DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES, IS A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION. HOW CAN WE CARRY OUT OUR CHARTER OBLIGATIONS IN A WAY WHICH CAN ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE? THUS IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF MY COUNTRY'S RIGHT TO ACT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDEMNATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BUT OUR COMMON RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO WHEN THE EVIDENCE OF SUCH MASS VIOLATIONS IS SO PERVASIVE.

5. WE HOPE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE UN WILL WORK IN THEIR OWN WAY TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. WE HOPE THAT POLITICAL DEBATE CAN END AND A COMMON HUMAN CONCERN CAN BEGIN. VANCE

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